Review: Parts of a Paragraph

When you write a paragraph, there are several ideas to keep in mind.

Important Parts of a Paragraph

- ✓ A good paragraph has a **topic sentence** that states the main idea.
- ✓ All of the sentences in the paragraph are about **one topic**.
- ✓ The first line of a paragraph is **indented**.
- ✓ A good paragraph has a sufficient number of **supporting sentences**.
- ✓ The last sentence, or **concluding sentence**, brings the paragraph to a logical conclusion, and it often resembles the topic sentence.

ACTIVITY 1 Identifying Topic Sentences vs. Supporting Sentences

Each pair of sentences is about one topic. Identify which sentence is the topic sentence (*T*) and which is a supporting sentence (*S*). (Hint: The topic sentence gives more general information.)

1. **Topic: Kennedy Space Center**

_____ **a.** You can take a tour of the rocket launch areas and experience a simulated shuttle launch.

_____ **b.** Kennedy Space Center is an exciting place to visit.



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2. **Topic: The Definition of Patience**

_____ **a.** A teacher often shows patience to young students at the end of the school day.

_____ **b.** Patience is the ability to continue doing something even if you do not see any results immediately.

3. **Topic: The Golden Gate Bridge**

_____ **a.** The Golden Gate Bridge is famous worldwide.

_____ **b.** The Golden Gate Bridge is 4200 feet (1280.2 m) long and rises 692 feet (211 m) above San Francisco Bay.

4. **Topic: Making New Friends**

_____ **a.** Some kids tried to be nice to me, but I did not want to talk to them.

_____ **b.** I learned the hard way how to make friends in a new school.

5. **Topic: Cell Phones and Driving**

_____ **a.** When drivers talk on cell phones, they become distracted and do not pay enough attention to driving.

_____ **b.** One of the recent developments of modern technology—cell phones—can be a danger to safe driving.

ACTIVITY 2 Ordering Sentences in a Paragraph

Put the sentences in a logical paragraph order. Then write the sentences in correct paragraph format on a separate piece of paper. Be sure to add an appropriate title.

_____ **a.** Instead, breakfast for them often consists of eggs with toast and coffee.

_____ **b.** People in Malaysia eat rice for breakfast, too, but their rice is cooked in coconut milk.

_____ **c.** Breakfast foods vary from country to country.

_____ **d.** However, people in most countries in Central and South America do not eat rice for breakfast.

_____ **e.** People eat this sweet, flavored rice with a red paste that is made of ground chili peppers and other ingredients.

_____ **f.** In Japan, for example, it is common to eat rice, soup, and fish for breakfast.

_____ **g.** From these varied breakfast items, it is clear that breakfast foods are different around the world.

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ACTIVITY 3 Writing Concluding Sentences

Choose three topic sentences from Activity 1. Write a concluding sentence for each one.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

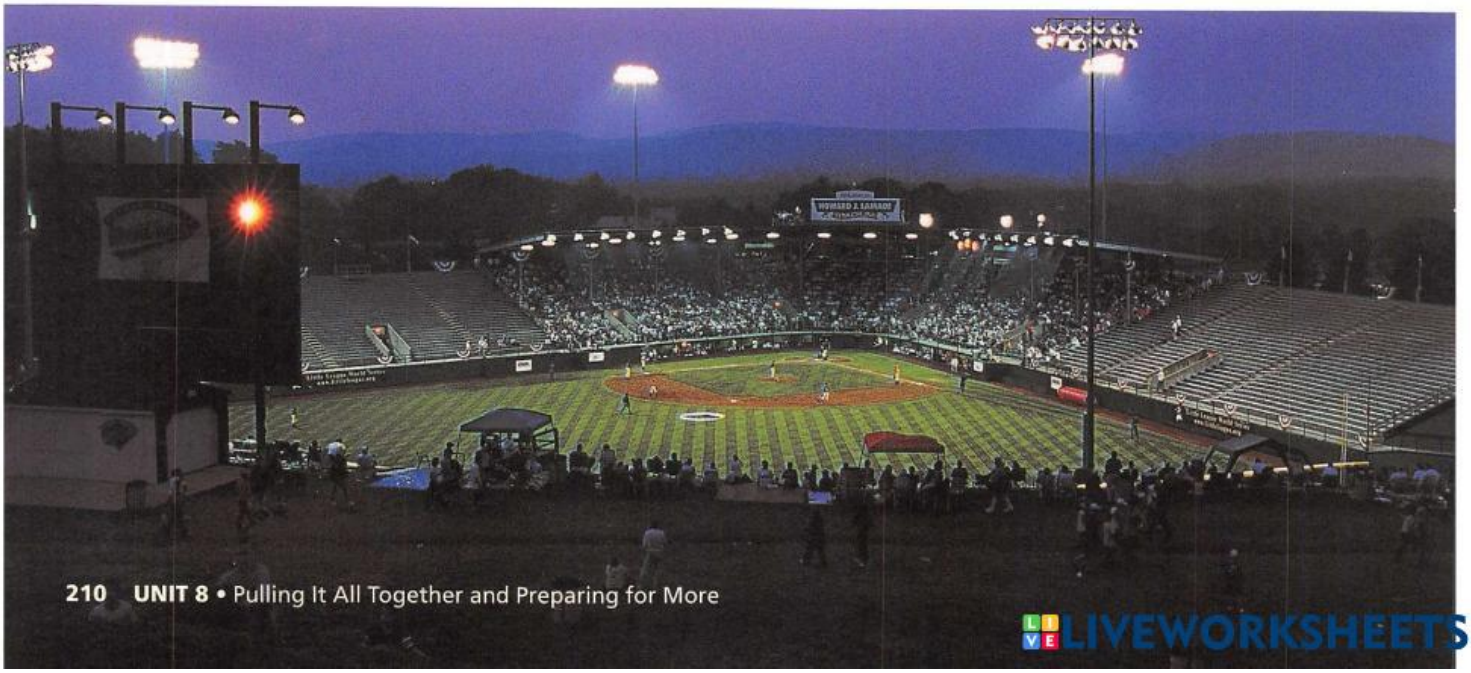
ACTIVITY 4 Choosing the Correct Verb Tense

Underline the correct verbs. Then answer the questions.

Example Paragraph 68

An Important Invention

I (**1.** believe / believed) that the light bulb is one of the most important inventions of all time. In the past, people (**2.** used / are using) candles to see at night. This light was very weak and difficult to see with. However, the light bulb now (**3.** allowed / allows) us to see things easily in the dark. This invention also (**4.** help / helps) us to do more work in one day. Before the light bulb, most work (**5.** ends / ended) at sundown. Now people can continue to work outdoors or in their offices for much longer at night. In addition, people can do more fun things



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when it is dark. For example, sports fans (**6.** watch / watched) games at night on lighted fields, and music lovers (**7.** listen / are listening) to concerts in lighted stadiums. Without this incredible invention, people today would not have as many choices for work or play.

Post-Reading

1. What is the topic sentence of the paragraph? _____

_____

2. How many sentences does the paragraph have? _____

3. What reasons does the writer give to support the main idea? _____

_____

_____

4. What two verb tenses does the writer use? Why? _____

_____

5. What ideas/words do the topic sentence and concluding sentence share?

_____

ACTIVITY 5 Original Writing Practice with Verb Tenses

What do you think is an important invention in history? Write a short paragraph about it.

- Use the paragraph in Activity 4 as a model.
- Include a topic sentence.
- Include three examples to support your opinion.
- Give your paragraph a title.

_____

_____

_____

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ACTIVITY 6 Choosing the Correct Verb Tense

Underline the correct verbs. Then answer the questions.

Example Paragraph 69

A Busy Day

Tomorrow (**1.** is / is going to be) a busy day for me. Usually, I (**2.** get / am getting) up at seven o'clock in the morning. However, tomorrow I (**3.** get / am going to get) up at five o'clock because I am going to go to the gym. After I finish at the gym, I (**4.** go / am going to go) to work. I usually (**5.** start / am starting) work at nine o'clock. Tomorrow I (**6.** start / am going to start) work at eight o'clock. After work, I frequently (**7.** have / am having) dinner with my friends. However, tomorrow I (**8.** go / am going to go) directly to my mother's house because it is her birthday. We (**9.** have / are going to have) a big party for her. I know it will be a full but fun day for me.

Post-Reading

1. What is the topic sentence of the paragraph? _____

_____

2. How many sentences does the paragraph have? _____

3. What reasons does the writer give to support the main idea? _____

_____

_____

4. What two tenses does the writer use? Why? _____

_____

5. What ideas/words do the topic sentence and concluding sentence share?

_____

ACTIVITY 7 Editing for Subjects and Verbs

1. Reread your paragraph in Activity 5.
2. Circle all your subjects, and underline all your verbs. Be sure they agree in number.
3. Check that you used the correct verb tense.
4. Rewrite any sentences that need correction on the lines on page 213.
5. Ask a partner to check your writing.

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ACTIVITY 8 Using Articles

Underline the correct article. (NOTE: Ø means "no article.")

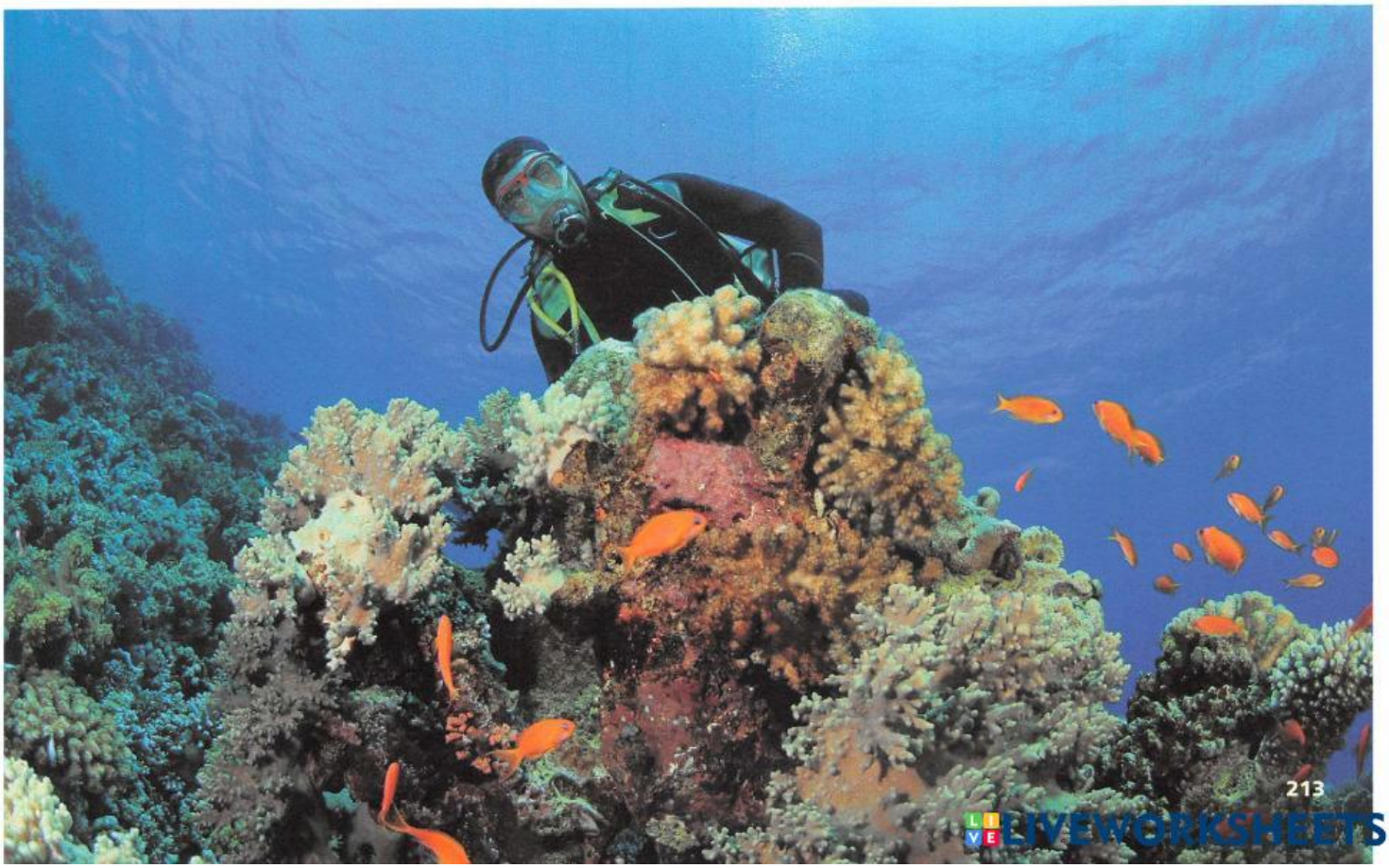
Example Paragraph 70

Underwater Adventure

I will never forget my first **encounter** with (**1.** a / an / Ø) shark. I was nineteen, and I was visiting Australia with my family. My father and I went scuba **diving** on (**2.** a / the / Ø) Great Barrier Reef. We went out to (**3.** a / the / Ø) reef with many other tourists on (**4.** a / an / the) special boat. When we got to (**5.** a / the / Ø) reef, the scuba diving

an encounter: a time when you meet someone or something

to dive: to jump into something

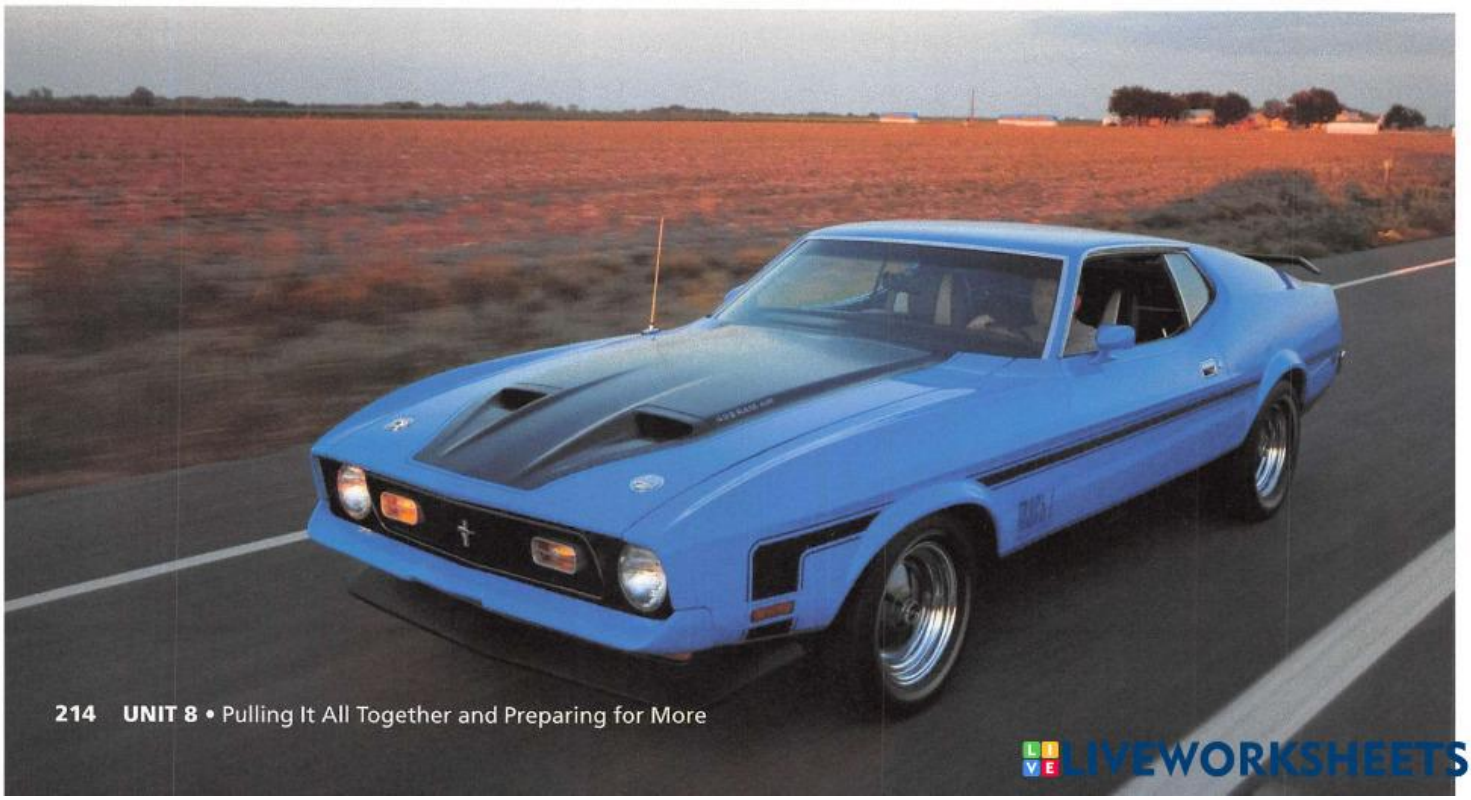


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instructor helped us put on our equipment. Then we dove into (**6.** a / the / Ø) clear blue water. Everything was so beautiful! There were colorful fish and many different kinds of coral. I swam everywhere. Suddenly, I saw (**7.** a / an / the) huge gray shark swim towards me. I looked around for my father, but I was far away from him and (**8.** a / an / the) group of tourists. What could I do? (**9.** A / An / The) shark got closer and closer. I was so scared that I could not move. Just when I thought that it might bite me, (**10.** a / an / the) shark turned and swam (**11.** a / the / Ø) other way. Unbelievable! I quickly found my father. Now I never swim off by myself when I go scuba diving.

ACTIVITY 9 Editing for Articles

1. Reread your paragraph in Activity 5.
2. Choose three sentences from your paragraph that contain articles. Write them below.
3. Ask a partner to check your sentences. Did you use the articles correctly?



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